

Mr. Roger Fisher
701 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Your letter of January 28, 1956, to Honorable Sherman Adams, the Assistant to the President, regarding the dispersion policy, the responsibility of the head of an agency in the selection of a site, and whether the President or anyone else has made a decision which would preclude CIA from locating in the District of Columbia, has been referred to me for direct reply.

There is not much that I can add to the letter from Mr. Victor E. Cooley, of January 30, to you. In brief, the dispersion policy is a Government policy; it recognizes that exceptions may be necessary; the head of the agency concerned is responsible for determining whether an exception is necessary, and for achieving as much security as possible, consistent with the needs which justified an exception, in the selection of a specific location.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Arthur S. Flemming
Director

COPY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

SUMMARY SHEET

(Director's Outgoing Correspondence)

TO: The Director

The following is a brief summary of the background and the substance of the attached communication prepared for your signature:

Letter to Mr. Roger Fisher, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C., in reply to his letter of 1/28 to Hon. Sherman Adams, which was referred to ODM for direct reply.

Mr. Fisher is a self-appointed leader of the opposition to CIA locating in Langley. He has written Brundage - letter referred to Mr. Cooley for reply (copy of reply attached). He has written Gov. Adams before (copy of reply attached).

He has written reams to CIA, and is presumptuous enough to dictate letters over phone for CIA to send him.

He is trying to get someone to say that CIA wants to locate in D. C. but that the President or someone else won't let it, or that CIA has sole responsibility and can locate in D. C. if it wants to.

This reply reaffirms Mr. Cooley's reply, and states that it is inappropriate to relate conversations which Mr. Dulles may have had with the President or others in carrying out his responsibilities.

Coordinated with Col. White, CIA, Code 143, x-717.

The following officials have concurred in this communication:

FROM /s/ WSP
Willard S. Paul, Lt. Gen. USA Ret.
OFFICE

DATE 2/2
TELEPHONE

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

7 /s/ 2/3/56

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Y

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

ROUTE SLIP

(To Remain With Correspondence)

Director

TO Office of Defense Mobilization

Prompt Handling is essential. When draft reply is requested the basic correspondence must be returned. If any delay in submission of draft reply is encountered, please telephone Office of the Staff Secretary.

Date January 30, 1956

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

ACTION: Comment _____
Draft reply _____
For direct reply XX _____
For your information _____
For necessary action _____
For appropriate handling _____
See below _____

Remarks:

By direction of the President:

/s/
A. J. GOODPASTER
Staff Secretary

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701 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D. C.

January 23, 1956

Governor Sherman Adams
The Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Governor Adams:

I have your letter of January 23 for which I am most appreciative. To one outside the Government the wording is a little difficult and I would like to make sure that I do not misconstrue it.

As I understand it, OTH has general policies in favor of dispersal but the actual decision as to where an agency should locate is the sole responsibility of the head of the agency. In particular, there is no decision of the President or any one else in the Executive Branch which would preclude CIA from locating in the District of Columbia.

To avoid any further misunderstanding I would appreciate your letting me know if I have correctly understood the facts.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Roger Fisher